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THE GREAT DESTROYER

SPEECH

OF

HON. RICHMOND P. HOBSON
OF ALABAMA

IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 1911



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SPEECH
OF
HON. RICHMOND P. HOBSON.

The House being in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and having under consideration the bill (H. R. 31596) making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912—

Mr. HOBSON said:

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I wish to show the intimate relations between country life and city life and prosperity and institutions of nations. I will print a lecture of mine on the subject, as follows:

ALCOHOL IN HISTORY.

History is a record of a sad procession of world tragedies. Nations and empires in turn have risen to greatness only to fall. Before the deathblow was struck from without the evidence shows in every case the ravages of a titanic destroyer within, under whose operations the vitality and strength of the nation were submerged in a general degeneracy.

For centuries the world's philosophers and historians have looked on appalled, overwhelmed. Only in the last few years has science taken up the question. Following her patient, rigid methods, under which nature and life have slowly yielded up their secrets, science has at last cleared up the mystery and identified the great destroyer as alcoholic poisoning.

THE DISCOVERY.

The discovery, like most great discoveries, came about almost by accident. During the Boer War it was found that the average Englishman did not measure up to the standards of recruiting and the average soldier in the field manifested a low plane of vitality and endurance. Parliament, alarmed by the disastrous consequences, instituted an investigation. The commission appointed brought in a finding that alcoholic poisoning was the great cause of the national degeneracy. The investigations of the commission have been supplanted by investigations of scientific bodies and individual scientists, all arriving at the same conclusion. As a consequence, the British Government has placarded the streets of a hundred cities with billboards setting forth the destructive and degenerating nature of alcohol and appealing to the people in the name of the nation to desist from drinking alcoholic beverages. Under efforts directed by the Government the British Army is fast becoming an army of total abstainers.

The Governments of continental Europe followed the lead of the British Government. The French Government has placarded France with appeals to the people, attributing the decline of the birth rate and increase in the death rate to the widespread use of alcoholic beverages. The experience of the German Government has been the same. The German Emperor has clearly stated that leadership in war and in peace will be held by the nation that roots out alcohol. He has undertaken to eliminate even the drinking of beer, so far as possible, from the German Army and Navy.

In the summer of 1909 an international conference on alcoholism was held in London, to which most of the great nations sent scientific men or delegates. Comparing the results of investigation made in all parts of the world, finding that these results agreed, representative medical leaders of the conference drew up a report in the form of a statement defining the nature of alcohol, as follows:

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THE NATURE OF ALCOHOL.

Exact laboratory, clinical, and pathological research has demonstrated that alcohol is a dehydrating, protoplasmic poison, and its use as a beverage is destructive and degenerating to the human organism. Its effects upon the cells and tissues of the body are depressive, narcotic, and anæsthetic. Therefore, therapeutically, its use should be limited and restricted in the same way as the use of other poisonous drugs.

It is to be noted that the investigation has been conclusive. The question has passed beyond the experimental stage, beyond the stage of theory, and is a demonstration that is final, like the demonstration that the world is round and not flat.

ALCOHOL A POISON.

The last word of science, after exact research in all the domains, is that alcohol is a poison. It has been found to be a hydrocarbon of the formula C_2H_6O , that is produced by the process of fermentation, and is the toxin, or liquid excretion or waste product, of the yeast or ferment germ. According to the universal law of biology that the toxin of one form of life is a poison to all forms of life of a higher order, alcohol, the toxin of the low yeast germ, is a protoplasmic poison to all life, whether plant, animal, or man, and to all the living tissues and organs.

ALCOHOL HAS NO FOOD VALUE.

It is necessary to surrender the old idea, so widespread, that alcohol in small quantities has a food value, that its temperate use has any benefit. The experience of the railroads has led over 39 great railroads to forbid the use of alcoholic beverage among their employees. While the men thought they were being fortified, experience proved the contrary. Science has supplemented experience by actual and accurate measurements. If a man drinks one glass of beer, the day on which he drinks it his general efficiency will be lowered on an average of 8 per cent. If he takes three glasses of beer a day, or the equivalent in light wine, for 12 days, his efficiency at the end of the 12 days will be lowered from 25 per cent to 40 per cent, depending upon the temperament of the man and the nature of the work. In doing mathematical work, like bookkeeping, the loss of efficiency goes above the 40 per cent limit; in memorizing the loss goes up as high as 70 per cent. Thus the most moderate and temperate drinking is harmful. No matter in what quantity taken alcohol remains always a poison.

ALCOHOL A NARCOTIC, NOT A STIMULANT.

In like manner it is necessary to surrender the old idea that alcohol is a stimulant and has medicinal value as such, for it has been found to be a narcotic. What is thought to be stimulation is in reality a condition where the higher centers of coordination and control are more affected by the narcotic and, under the paralytic effect, turn loose the lower activities. The real effect throughout is depressive, and all the ideas of medicinal value attaching to alcohol must be abandoned.

SNAKE-BITE FALLACY—CONSUMPTION FALLACY.

The old idea that alcohol is good for a snake bite, mad-dog bite, or other forms of poisoning must give way, for experiment has shown that in such cases alcohol not only does no good, but actually hinders and even prevents other treatment from being effective. Two men bitten at the same time on the streets of Paris by the same mad dog were treated at the same hospital. One speedily recovered. The other was not susceptible to treatment and died. Though not inebriated and not a heavy drinker, but only a temperate regular drinker, it was found that the alcohol in his system prevented all treatment from taking effect.

The old idea that alcohol is good for those threatened with lung troubles must be abandoned. Accurate records show that deaths from lung trouble are directly in proportion to the average amount of alcohol consumed. In one province of France, where the consumption of alcohol is 12.5 liters per capita per year, the deaths from consumption are 32.8 per 10,000 per year, while in a simi-

lar province, where the consumption of alcohol is 36.4 liters per capita, the deaths from consumption are 109.8 per 10,000. With regard to drinking alcoholic beverages, what applies to consumption applies to pneumonia and other diseases of the lungs, like grippe, pleurisy, colds, and the like. What applies to the diseases of the lungs applies in a general way to the diseases of the stomach and intestines, diseases of the kidneys and bladder, diseases of the liver, diseases of the heart and blood vessels, diseases of the nervous system and the brain, diseases of the blood, diseases of the bones, muscles, and tissues.

The alcoholic toxin not only has a poisoning effect of its own in every case, but in addition, through lowered vitality, the organs and tissues are opened to attack from other sources.

ALCOHOL THE CAUSE OF DISEASE.

The results can be illustrated by taking the effect of alcohol on the white blood corpuscles, the wonderful standing army of the system, whose organized hosts, millions strong, attack and destroy the hordes of disease germs of all kinds that are constantly entering the system through the air we breathe, the food and drink, and through abrasions of the skin. These disease germs, seeking a lodgment, germs of tuberculosis usually in the lungs, germs of typhoid in the intestines, each kind in its favorite organs or tissues, are constantly under assault from the armies of the corpuscles. If the latter win from the outset the germs are thrown off. If the germs win at first they get a lodgment and multiply, and the person contracts the diseases. If by repeated assaults the corpuscles finally win, the patient recovers. If the multiplying hordes of germs win, the patient dies. Nearly all the diseases of mankind and nearly all the deaths hang upon the vitality and vigor of the white blood corpuscles.

ONE DRINK MAKES THE WHITE BLOOD CORPUSCLES DRUNK.

Under the microscope it was found that even a moderate drink of alcoholic beverage passing quickly into the blood paralyzes the white blood corpuscles. They behave like drunken men. In pursuit they can not catch the disease germs. In conflict they can not hold the disease germs for devouring, and they can not operate in great phalanxes, as they do when sober, against such powerful germs as those of consumption.

Every time a man takes a drink of alcoholic beverage he lays himself open for a time to contracting diseases. Every time a man takes a drink he puts his life in peril. No wonder the mortality statistics show, as they do, that a total abstainer has nearly twice the security and hold on life that the average drinker has and about three times the hold of heavy drinkers and those engaged in the liquor traffic.

If the drinks are repeated, the microscope shows that the fighting powers of the white blood corpuscles are permanently impaired, even when they are not actually drunk. This accounts for the lowered vitality of regular drinkers, even though temperate.

After long-continued drinking, even though temperate, the microscope shows that the white blood corpuscles, with the serum which contains their vegetable food continually sucked up by the dehydrating toxin, become carnivorous, and begin to feed upon the tissues and organs like disease germs. The favorite tissue food of the degenerate corpuscles are the tender cells of latest development. In the human being the latest development is the brain. The microscope shows the degenerate corpuscles, with the goods upon them, down in their bodies the gray matter of the brain. This accounts for the tremendous mortality among heavy drinkers and for the degeneracy that will be referred to later.

THE GREAT DESTROYER.

It is difficult to say in any particular case whether having alcohol in the system caused a patient to take a disease or caused a patient to die, and "alcoholism" attributed to men who die in delirium tremens is the only record of death ordinarily kept against alcohol. But the British Government, in conjunction with English life insurance companies, from the records of millions of cases, has been able to determine the death rate of total abstainers and of those who drink.

Statistics compiled by insurance companies show that the death rate for the population at large is 1,000 deaths per year out of every 61,215 of the population, and that the death rate of total abstainers is 560 per year out of the same number, and for liquor dealers 1,642 deaths per year out of the same number. These figures, resulting from many millions of cases, can be taken as accurate. They show that 440 deaths out of every 1,000 deaths, nearly one-half of the deaths that occur, are due to alcohol. Applied to this country, over 680,000 deaths per year in continental United States, or over 725,000 per year in the United States and its possessions. In other words, alcohol is killing our people at the rate of nearly 2,000 men a day every day in the year.

ALCOHOL TEN THOUSAND TIMES MORE DESTRUCTIVE THAN WAR.

The Army War College at Washington made an investigation of the destructiveness of war. Taking all the wars of the world, from the Russo-Japanese War back to 500 B. C., the War College found that the total number of killed and wounded in battle amounts to about 2,800,000, of which it is estimated that about 700,000 were killed and something over 2,000,000 wounded.

The comparative figures show the appalling fact that alcohol is killing off as many Americans every year as all the wars of the world have killed in battle in 2,300 years.

Applied to the whole white race, we find that alcohol is killing 3,500,000 white men every year, five times as many as have been killed in war in 2,300 years; so that, stated mathematically, alcohol is ten thousand times more destructive than all wars combined. No wonder the Governments investigating the subject have found that war has been only a secondary cause of national decline, and that alcohol has been the real destroyer that has overthrown all the great nations of the past and is now undermining the great nations of to-day.

ALCOHOL'S WOUNDED TO-DAY ARE MORE THAN 100,000,000 WHITE MEN.

The figures of the British Government and English life insurance companies as to the effect of drinking on longevity are stated as follows:

If a young man at the age of 20 is a total abstainer and remains a total abstainer, his prospect of life is 44 years and he will live to the average age of 64, but if he is a temperate regular drinker his prospect of life will be 31 years and he will live to the average age of 51, after losing 13 years out of his life. If he is a heavy drinker, his prospect of life is 15 years and he will die at the average age of 35, after losing 29 years out of his life. Conservative estimates place the number of confirmed drunkards in the United States at something over 1,000,000, of whom 300,000 die every year; the heavy drinkers at over 4,000,000; and temperate regular drinkers at over 20,000,000. A soldier wounded in battle and losing 10 years of his life as a consequence would be classed as seriously wounded. The confirmed drunkards and heavy drinkers together, 5,000,000 in number, must be looked upon as mortally wounded and the temperate regular drinkers as seriously wounded, making a total of over 25,000,000 Americans wounded by alcohol to-day, more than ten times as many as wounded in all the battles of the world since the dawn of history. The estimates for the white race make over 125,000,000 white men to-day wounded by alcohol.

If a great military power were to declare war on unprepared America to-day every patriotic heart would be filled with anxiety. I know the full significance of war, especially when a nation is unprepared. But if I had the choice of having alcohol continue its deadly ravages with the Nation at peace or of having it wiped off the face of the land with a declaration of war by all the nations of the earth, I would not hesitate for a moment; I would take sober, ungenerate America and face the combined world in arms.

ALCOHOL DEGENERATES.

The full ravages of alcohol are not measured even by the appalling list of killed and wounded. War kills and wounds; alcohol kills and wounds ten thousand times more than all war combined, and in addition it degenerates. Its toxin attacks with special virility the young, tender cells associated with evolution. A plant or vegetable or fruit steadily evolving some color or form

under the process of cultivation when watered with water to which a small quantity of alcohol is added will quickly cease to evolve and will lose the color and form and revert backward toward the condition when it grew wild. If a young domestic animal is brought up on a fare to which a small ration of alcohol is added, by the time it is grown it will lose those qualities acquired in domesticity.

THE CURSE OF THE RED MAN AND BLACK MAN.

If a peaceable red man is subjected to the regular use of alcoholic beverage, he will speedily be put back to the plane of the savage. The Government long since recognized this and absolutely prohibits the introduction of alcoholic beverage into an Indian reservation. If a negro takes up a regular use of alcoholic beverage, in a short time he will degenerate to the level of the cannibal.

CONQUERS THE NOBLEST WHITE MEN.

No matter how high the stage of evolution, the result is the same. A white man with great self-control, considerate, tender-hearted, who would not willingly harm an insect, will be degenerated by regular use of alcoholic beverage to the point where he will strike with a dagger or fire a shot to kill with little or no provocation.

THE OVERSHADOWING CAUSE OF CRIME, PAUPERISM, AND INSANITY.

Though at first a tender, loving husband and parent, he will degenerate to the point where he will be cruel to his own flesh and blood. It is conservatively estimated that 95 per cent of all the acts and crimes of violence committed in civilized communities are the direct result of men being put down by alcohol toward a plane of savagery. The degenerating process strikes at the integrity of the reason and is the chief cause of idiocy and insanity. It wipes out self-control, self-respect, the sense of honor, the moral sense, and produces the bulk of tramps, paupers, vagabonds.

DEFIES NATURE AND NATURE'S GOD.

In every living thing there is the evolutionary impulse to rise and progress. In the human family man is not changing much in his physical nature, but is evolving chiefly in his nervous system, building up those delicate centers of the brain upon whose activities rests the moral sense. Nature is trying to produce men of high character, a race of true, noble men. Alcoholic beverages, even in moderation, reverse the processes of nature and set back the purposes of creation.

BRINGS NATURE'S CURSE—BLIGHTS PROGENY.

Nature is pitiless when her processes are reversed. She abhors degeneracy and will not tolerate its perpetuation. With parents properly mated and undegenerated the offspring will multiply and be higher and nobler in each succeeding generation. But woe to the offspring if the parents degenerate themselves. Nature will blast the progeny and everything associated with its production.

BLIGHTS THE FRUITING OF PLANTS AND THE OFFSPRING OF ANIMALS.

Upon a fruit tree watered with alcohol mixed with the water the fruit will fall untimely. With animals the law is the same. Scientists selected from a litter of spaniels two little brothers exactly alike in infancy, and brought them up, one as an alcoholic and the other as a total abstainer, giving the former only a small quantity of alcohol with his food, about equivalent in proportion to what benighted parents often give their children in beer or light wine mixed with water. From another litter of spaniels they selected two little sisters exactly alike in infancy, and brought them up in the same way, one as an alcoholic, the other as a total abstainer. When the four dogs were grown they were mated, the two alcoholics together, and the two total abstainers together, and the process was repeated. The two mothers and the offspring were placed under close scientific observation. Extraordinary phenomena set in with the alcoholic mother. She experienced difficulties and accidents, suffered great

travail in birth, and finally died in pupbirth with the fifth litter, a phenomenon unknown before. Many of her offspring were born dead. Many of them died in infancy, and of those that survived only 17.3 per cent were normal.

The little abstaining mother had no such experience; she bore large litters of healthy, strong pups, of which 90.5 per cent were absolutely normal.

BLIGHTS THE PROGENY OF MAN.

The same inexorable law holds for man as for animals and plants. A scientist having investigated more than 800 cases, announces that of children born to alcoholic parents, one of every five will be hopelessly insane, one out of three will be hysterical or epileptic. More than two-thirds will be degenerate. Another scientist located 10 large families in which both parents were alcoholic, and in the same localities, with other conditions practically the same, 10 large families in which both parents were total abstainers. Of the 57 children of the alcoholic parents, 10 were deformed, 6 were epileptic, 6 were idiotic, 25 were nonviable, only 17 per cent were normal, 83 per cent being abnormal. Of the 61 children of the total-abstaining parents 10.5 per cent only were abnormal, and these chiefly backward, while 89.5 per cent were absolutely normal. Seventeen per cent were normal in the one case and 89.5 per cent in the other case, a difference of 72.5 per cent.

Parents by becoming alcoholic will sacrifice three-fourths of their children on the altar of drink.

ALCOHOL THE CURSE OF THE PERILS OF CHILDBIRTH AND THE DANGER OF RACE SUICIDE.

Another scientist after wide investigation has found that in only 1 per cent of cases do accidents occur in maternity to mothers where the parents are total abstainers, while 5.25 per cent occur where the parents are regular temperate drinkers, and 7.32 per cent where the parents are heavy drinkers. In the case of total-abstaining parents the deaths in infancy among their children will be 13 per cent; in the case of temperate regular drinkers 23 per cent, and heavy drinkers 32 per cent. Of the children of drinkers 10 per cent will have consumption, of the children of total abstainers, only 1.8 per cent. Those who drink alcoholic beverage should realize the terrible price they pay. For even temperate regular drinking, they increase over 400 per cent the chances of accidents in maternity. They nearly double the chances of their children dying in infancy, and they undermine the health and normality of those that survive. A man may take chances with himself, but if he has a spark of nobility in his soul, he will take care how he tampers with a deadly poison that will cause the helpless little children that he brings into the world to be deformed, idiotic, epileptic, insane.

THE ONLY RATIONAL LIFE.

In the light of the truth that every drink endangers health, the terrible truth that alcohol destroys and degenerates, and that it blights progeny, there can be from the standpoint of the individual but one rational course of life with regard to this deadly poison, and that is a life of absolute, total abstinence.

The standpoint of the individual is not the only standpoint from which this great destroyer must be examined. His blight is as deadly for society as it is for the individual. We must examine him from the standpoint of the State.

DESTROYS OVER HALF THE NATION'S WEALTH.

From conclusions drawn from scientific tests referred to above, it is conservative to estimate that the heavy drinkers and confirmed drunkards in the United States have their productive efficiency lowered at least 75 per cent; that the temperate, regular drinkers, who drink alcoholic beverages every day of their lives, suffer a loss of productive efficiency of fully 50 per cent; that the occasional drinkers suffer a loss of fully 10 per cent. This is what Dr. Aschaffenberg proved by his famous test of four German typesetters—drinking men—who averaged a tenth more work when they drank nothing for a day than when they drank even 1 ounce of alcohol at home in pure wine or beer (the equivalent of over 5 per cent loss to the Nation). The wide use of alcoholic beverage I estimate as causing a loss of fully 21 per cent in the efficiency of the Nation's producers. The production of wealth is at a rate of about

\$32,000,000,000 yearly; the loss due to lowered efficiency, conservatively estimated in round figures, is therefore fully \$8,500,000,000.

ECONOMIC LOSS OF THOSE WHO ARE KILLED.

It is estimated that each one of the 700,000 men cut off untimely every year by alcohol would have, sober, an economic value of \$8,000, making a loss of \$5,600,000,000. The Nation last year on account of the lowered efficiency of its producers and the death list was over \$14,000,000,000 short in its productiveness. Instead of producing only \$32,000,000,000 of wealth, we would have produced without alcohol over \$46,000,000,000.

THE BURDEN OF CRIME, PAUPERISM, AND INSANITY.

It is estimated that the cost of providing for the added crime, pauperism, idiocy, and insanity produced by alcohol in the United States paid for by direct taxation exceeds \$2,000,000,000 per annum.

THE TOTAL LIQUOR BILL.

The people of the United States last year consumed more than two and one-half billion gallons of alcoholic beverage, paying for same nearly \$2,000,000,000, making a total loss of above \$16,000,000,000.

ALCOHOL DISINHERITS THE NATION.

Summing up the economic losses from the lowered efficiency of our producers, from the death list, from the costs of crime, pauperism, and insanity, and from the liquor bill, the total economic burden laid upon the Nation by King Alcohol, is between sixteen and seventeen billions of dollars, more than half of all the wealth produced by the Nation. If our National Government in a year appropriates \$1,000,000,000, though for purposes of uplift, it is criticized for the burdens laid upon the people. Here in alcohol we have a ruler that puts upon us a burden of sixteen and one-half billions of dollars for purposes of destruction and degeneracy.

It is not difficult to see the duty of the State. If a foreign invader landed on our shores and disinherited the people of a single county, the Nation would be up in arms. Here is a foe that has come upon us and is taxing us for more than the values of all the products of all our farms, all our forests, all our mines, all our fisheries; equivalent to taking from our people all that mother earth produces on land and water combined. What shall be the attitude of the State in face of a foe that has disinherited the whole Nation? Clearly the State has not only the clear right but the bounden duty to take up arms and expel the foe.

ALCOHOL IS DESTROYING THE CHARACTER OF THE NATION.

But even this terrific economic loss is but a small part of the ravages of this destroyer. As seen above, alcohol attacks the line of evolution more than any other line. In the case of man the line of evolution is in moral advancement—what in any individual may be termed "character." Therefore the loss of character must be far greater than the economic loss. We found the economic loss to be fully 21 per cent. If character could be measured by percentage, we would have to estimate the loss in average character of the Nation as fully 50 per cent.

Looking upon a nation as climbing a ladder of evolution, alcohol, like a millstone, drags it halfway to the bottom. The full significance of this drag appears when we realize that upon the average standard of character of its citizens must rest the institutions of a nation. It has become an axiom of history that if the average standard of character is below a certain minimum level, a nation can not enjoy self-government.

LIBERTY IS AT STAKE.

In our great cities like New York, Chicago, Philadelphia the ravages upon the average character have been so great, so many degenerates have already been produced, that the degenerate and corruptible vote not only holds the bal-

ance of power between the two great political parties and can dictate to both, but actually holds a majority of the votes, so that honest and efficient self-government as a permanent condition is now impossible. As young as our Nation is, the deadly work of alcohol has already blighted liberty in our greatest cities.

At the present rate of the growth of cities over country life, if no check is put upon the spread of alcoholic degeneracy, the day can not be far distant when liberty in great States must go under. It will then be but a question of time when the average standard of character of the Nation's electorate will fall below that inexorable minimum, and liberty will take her flight from America, as she did from Greece and Rome.

The overthrow of liberty in America would be a sad event for the world. If free institutions can not stem the flood of alcoholic degeneracy in this land, there is little hope for other lands; if the average standard of character sinks too low for liberty here, if in the face of alcohol liberty can not be preserved in America, it can not anywhere else. If King Alcohol continues his triumphant march, crushing the character of our citizens, he will make a short cut to blighting the liberties of mankind.

The State has a right and a duty to protect its free institutions. One of the main objects for which a State exists is to promote the development of character of its people. In the premises, therefore, it has not only the right but the bounden duty to put an end to the ravages of this destroyer.

THE SALOON IS AN ASSASSIN.

Last year, on an average, each saloon in the United States was the cause of the death of three men. This year each saloon, on the average, will kill three men. Each saloon in the United States, on an average, now has 20 men made heavy drinkers or drunkards, who are mortally wounded. Each saloon, on an average, has 100 men made regular drinkers, who are seriously wounded.

Speaking for myself, I feel no bitterness against those engaged in the liquor traffic. They are in business by the consent of the Government, which shares the spoils. The Government belongs to all the people. The blame for the business is to be laid at the doors of all the people who have not done their utmost to destroy it.

In the full light of the facts, I can not look upon any saloon otherwise than as an assassin, the most barbarous, atrocious of assassins. It is vain to plead that the men who drink are responsible for the slaughter. They drink because the drug is kept in their presence. No amount of suffering will cause them to stop, or will warn others away. Meat with strychnine placed along the streets will kill the dogs. No terrible examples will have any effect. The fact of the poisoned meat being placed on the street is the cause of the destruction. When this remarkable, seductive poison of alcohol is placed along the streets in saloons, men will take it. The fact of its being on the street is the real cause of its being taken. Irrespective of the question of the responsibility for its existence, the saloon is fundamentally an assassin.

The first duty assumed by any government is the protection of the lives of its citizens. To any civilized government the life of its citizens is sacred. It is incredible that the governments of the world should continue in league with assassins. When the true nature of alcohol becomes better understood, no community will longer tolerate these assassins, who take their stand on the corners and up and down the squares of our cities. In the premises the State has not only the right but the bounden duty to put an end to this wholesale assassination.

THE NATION'S LIFE ITSELF AT STAKE.

The menace of this destroyer extends yet further, to the very life of the Nation itself. In the rural life of the country, the people do not have the poison continually in their path, so in spite of unusual hardship the great law of evolution and progress causes numbers to increase and each generation to be higher than the previous. Thus it is that the great empires and enduring civilizations of history were all built upon rural life. A time comes, however, in the life of each nation when its citizens, having accumulated wealth, gather into cities to enjoy it. There the great destroyer does his deadly work.

PREVENTS DEVELOPING A THOROUGHBRED RACE OF MEN.

With seductive mockery, the poison stands on the tables of the rich, of the families of high degree. Degeneracy sets in forthwith. In all lands the great families rise only to sink back again. The royal and noble families of the Old World, the great families of America, might have gone on and produced a race of thoroughbreds. But, alas! they count among the most degenerate of all. It is not difficult to produce a thoroughbred race of corn. We can develop a thoroughbred race of horses or of dogs, but we can not produce a thoroughbred race of men. The great destroyer strikes the families down as fast as they rise.

THE RISE AND FALL OF NATIONS AND EMPIRES.

The ravages, however, are not confined to families of high degree. The bars of the saloons keep the poison in the presence of families of middle and lower degree. The whole population of the cities is stricken. Those who have moved from the country to the city begin to degenerate themselves, and their degeneracy is visited upon the offspring. In a few generations the community is flooded with degenerates and abnormals. Thus far, whenever city life has come to predominate, the nation has been doomed. Resting upon degenerates, its institutions have been blighted; and sooner or later in the struggle for survival, when struck by a foreign foe, it has fallen never to rise again. This is the sad history of Babylon, Nineveh, Tyre, Greece, Rome, Gaul. Rome made the deepest imprint on history, because it was longest rural and frugal; and while undegenerate it conquered the world, and upon the true principles of jurisprudence and justice reared a wonderful system of free institutions. But the Romans in turn gathered into their great city to be blighted, put up its crown at auction, and at last the empire was overthrown by the despised barbarians. Any form of plant life can be made to rise and develop indefinitely; likewise, any type of animal life; but history records the sad fact that a nation, made up of the noblest type of all, the creature in the image of his Maker, only rises to fall.

"WESTWARD THE STAR OF EMPIRE MAKES ITS WAY."

The way in which the human race has been able to progress has been that a rural and frugal fragment, still undegenerate, when decadent empires fall, breaks away and migrates to other lands. They could not go back eastward over the ashes of older empires, nor could they remain and build up a new empire in the midst of ruins of degenerates, and so they invariably moved westward. Then in new lands, in the forests and fields, under the process of nature, undegenerated they multiplied in number, rose in character, and founded a new empire, which in turn gathered into cities, degenerated, then perished. Thus the star of empire westward has made its way.

AMERICA IN THE BUILDING.

When Quakers, Puritans, Huguenots, Covenanters broke away from decadent civilization in Europe and came to America they found a virgin continent. Striking inland they built States in the forests, States on the mountain sides, States upon the prairies. For 200 years they remained rural and frugal. Down to 1850 fully 80 per cent of all the people of the United States were engaged in or associated with agricultural pursuits. During this long period, with the process of nature in full operation, we produced, as shown by tests on the battle field or council chamber, the noblest race of men the world has ever seen, who have left us a legacy of free institutions, the marvel of all history.

THE RAPID GROWTH OF CITY LIFE.

About the middle of the nineteenth century the development of agricultural machinery released a large proportion of the population required to produce the foodstuffs and raw materials on the farm. The Civil War left the Nation under a heavy debt. To meet this debt our fiscal policies developed the indirect systems of taxation and gave advantage to manufacturing, causing a flow of population to the cities. Immigrants coming in vast numbers from abroad remained chiefly in the cities. The growth of our cities, at the expense of coun-

try life, has been enormous. To-day hardly 30 per cent of our people are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and the decline of rural life will doubtless continue. The effect upon the life of the Nation of this growth of city life, coupled with the iniquitous license system adopted in 1862, is startling. In 1850 the consumption per capita of alcoholic beverage was a little over 4 gallons per year. To-day it is more than 25 gallons for every man, woman, and child, and is on the increase.

THE DEATH GRAPPLE.

It is not a day too soon to grapple with this foe. We have reached the beginning of the second stage of American life. When degeneracy has gone much further it will be too late. At the present rate it would not be long before abnormals and degenerates would swamp our cities and overrun our States. Nature will not tolerate a race of degenerates. A backward, and usually a despised race, but undegenerate, is found ready to give the coup de grace. When Persia degenerated, Greece was on hand to strike. When Greece degenerated, Rome was ready. When Rome degenerated, Gaul was ready.

If America degenerates the yellow man will be on hand. Some may make light of the yellow man; so did Romans make light of the "Barbarians." The yellow man is not degenerating. He can shoot as straight as a white man now, and undegenerated he can live on one-tenth of what is necessary for the white men while they are in the field doing the shooting. A race of degenerates can not occupy the American continent. In this generation our people must take their choice; in the next generation it may be too late. There is no alternative. We are fairly in the death grapple. All the pages of history are crying out to America, "Conquer the great destroyer or perish." The first law of nature, self-preservation, which holds for a nation or for a man, demands of the nation the death warrant of the saloon.

AMERICA THE HOPE OF THE WORLD.

Suppose America should go down before this destroyer, whither will a rural and frugal fragment of America go to start a new empire? History leaves no hope to go back eastward. There is not longer any westward. We have reached the shores of the last ocean. In America the star of empire moving westward finishes the circle of the world.

THE LAST STAND OF THE HUMAN RACE.

In America we are making the last stand of the great white race, and substantially of the human race. If this destroyer can not be conquered in young America, it can not in any of the old and more degenerate nations. If America fails, the world will be undone and the human race will be doomed to go down from degeneracy into degeneracy till the Almighty in wrath wipes the accursed thing out.

GUILTY BEFORE GOD AND MAN.

What is the conclusion from the standpoint of the State? From the standpoint of the individual we found there was but one conclusion, namely, that for any individual in the world there is but one course of life, a life of absolute total abstinence. From the standpoint of the State there is likewise but one conclusion, the right of the State in the premises can not be questioned, neither can its duty. Weighed in the balance of the cold, hard facts, with the truth uncolored, this historic curse, criminal of the ages, stands guilty of undermining the economic prosperity of the nation; guilty of blighting our liberties and free institutions; guilty of slaughtering, killing, and wounding our citizens 10,000 times more than war; guilty of blighting the progeny of the nation, flooding the land with a horde of degenerates; guilty of striking deadly blows at the very life of the nation itself and at the life of the race; guilty of reversing the processes of evolution and the purposes of the Almighty.

At the bar of eternal justice, before the laws of God and man, this great destroyer stands guilty, thrice guilty.

MUST BE DESTROYED.

From the standpoint of the State, there is but one decision: My countrymen, this great destroyer himself must be destroyed.

THE DISEASE IS ORGANIC.

The investigations above show the disease to be organic and chronic. It has been running for 3,000 years; it is grafted upon the social and political life of the nations; it grips every civilized government in the world—the rulers and the ruled, the families of high degree and low degree. It is the deepest, most organic disease known to the body politic and body social, the root and source of nearly all other social and political ills.

THE TREATMENT MUST BE ORGANIC.

For an organic disease the treatment, to be effective, must be organic. What is organic treatment? Who are the organs and tissues and cells of the body politic and body social? The people themselves. Each citizen may be regarded as a cell in the body politic. Any effective cure must reach the great multitude of individual citizens. The problem resolves itself into two parts—first, to find a treatment which, applied to the average individual citizen, will cure him; secondly, to carry this treatment down to the multitudes.

THE POWER OF TRUTH.

The average man is a rational being. If undegenerated, he shares with other creatures three elemental attributes—the instinct of self-preservation, the impulse to rise and better himself, the instinct to protect his progeny. Therefore, being rational, the average man can be cured by taking to him the truth that alcohol strikes at his life, stops, then reverses his evolution and blasts his progeny. The problem, therefore, is to take the great vital truths to the vast multitudes of the people. In the broadest sense, it is a question of universal education.

TWO DISTINCT DOMAINS.

In solving this great problem there are two distinct domains, the domain of the individual and the domain of the State. In the evolution of civil institutions, particularly Anglo-Saxon institutions, a wall has been erected around the individual to protect the man in his home from encroachments by the State. This wall is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and no wise policy will ever undertake to tear it down or to scale it. Many a prohibition fight has been lost through disregard of this principle of government. It must never be imagined that the State can by law prescribe what a man may drink or what he may not drink, or what he may not keep for his own use in his own home. The true way to reach the man in his home is not through the law, but through various legitimate agencies of education.

THE YOUNG MAN'S PROBLEM.

It has been found that one-half the drunkards contracted the habit before they were 21 years of age; indeed, about a third of them before they were 16. It is difficult to change those who have become set in their ways, with fixed ideas. The greatest agency of all is the public school, where the fallacies of the liquor traffic may not invade the textbooks and the teaching. The utilization of the public school already begun should be developed to the utmost and should be supplemented by instruction in the colleges and universities. The pulpit should carry the vital truth about this destroyer, not only at times of political excitement, but all through the year. The preacher should be aided by the laymen, pillars of the church. Every Sunday school should develop its teaching of these truths. Over half of all the drunkards in the land contracted their habits through "social" drinking and "treating." A steadfast, organized effort should be made to gradually change the social custom and remove this "cup" from society, high and low; from homes, from clubs, from entertaining, from feasts.

While prohibition truths control the public schools, the liquor fallacies control the cosmopolitan press and billboards, largely through paid advertise-

ments dwelling on the "purity" or "virtues" of various brands of beer, wine, liquor. This field of the enemy must be invaded systematically. So must art and literature be gradually remodeled to depict not the fancied joys, but the real torments and repugnance of bacchanalia.

ABSTINENCE AND EFFICIENCY.

All employers of men should extend the discrimination principle in accepting employees. The great railroads have come practically to prohibition in their employment—to demanding total abstinence of their men. The mine operator should follow rapidly; the manufacturer, the merchant, the professions, the farmer. It is perfectly legitimate in a private contract or agreement for an employer to demand that an employee so long as he remains such shall not cloud his judgment or lower his efficiency by alcoholic drugging.

ABSTINENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

The Government should do likewise, and require total abstinence in all public servants—the Federal Government in its judicial, legislative, and executive branches, its Army and Navy and civil service; the State governments, the county and municipal governments. This principle of efficiency, exacting the highest standard of service in all fields, should be arrayed against alcohol all along the line.

HOME TEACHING.

More systematic effort should be made to enlist the instinct of parenthood and have the teaching in the home improved; especially to check the father's shattering the teaching of the mother by a bad example of his own.

PASS THE CURE ALONG.

In the cure of an organic disease, when a cell gets cured it becomes active and passes the cure to the next. When a person has come into possession of the truth he should never lose an opening to pass it on and on, if only in the shortest, simplest form, that alcohol destroys, degenerates, and blights the progeny; that the question is settled as completely as a problem in geometry.

THE DOMAIN OF THE STATE.

While the various educational agencies enumerated above belong essentially to the domain of the individual, while this domain is really first in order of importance and deepest in effecting a cure, yet there is a domain of the State, and it is in this domain that the will of the people, developed in the domain of the individual, must finally express itself for execution.

THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES MUST CONTROL.

In this field the treatment must also be organic—that is, must rest the control in the hands of the people themselves, not simply in the hands of their representatives. It is vain to hope for a cure of this organic disease by any form of superficial treatment, such as high license and regulation, through judges, aldermen, city councilmen. The city of London inaugurated in its full development the treatment of high license in the year 1285, and for more than 600 years has applied that treatment only to become more degenerate with the passing years. For a half century the United States has been applying the same treatment only to see the consumption of alcoholic beverage per capita rise higher and higher all the time until now it is more than fivefold higher than it was, and is still rising. It is under such superficial treatment that the nations of the past have perished. For the treatment to be effective, the people themselves must control. Not a legislature or even Congress could hope for permanent results without going to the people in referendum.

MAJORITY RULE.

The control of the people is simply an application of the principle of majority rule. The organic treatment in the domain of the State is the simplest and purest form of democracy. The people have a right to vote on such a vital

question, and a majority have a right to rule. The scope of this principle must extend from the smallest political unit to the largest. If no superior law avails, the ward or township has a perfect right to vote and decide by majority what methods or system shall prevail in its own midst.

TRUE LOCAL OPTION.

Likewise the people of the city have a right to vote and to decide by a majority what shall prevail within the city limits, and a decision of the city supersedes all decisions of wards or component subdivisions. It could be questioned whether a city council or board of aldermen has a right to impose a system upon a ward against its will, but the right of the people of the whole city by popular vote to so impose can not be questioned. Similarly the vote of the whole people of a county is legitimately competent to impose the will of the majority throughout the county. Similarly the vote of the whole people of a State is competent to impose the will of the majority throughout the State. Some legislators have undertaken to establish laws for the whole State, but only when a referendum to the people has been made has the result been fully satisfactory. Congress might pass a national prohibition law, but the results could never be permanently satisfactory, the treatment could never be definitely effective, until the people of the Nation cast their vote.

CONSTITUTIONAL PROHIBITION.

That part of the law resting in the hands of the people is the real organic law of State and Nation. The people only can make and unmake constitutions. Therefore the constitution of a State is the true ultimate abiding place of prohibition for the State. The Constitution of the United States is the true abiding place of prohibition for the Nation.

WAR TO THE DEATH.

In the domain of the individual and in the domain of the State, in both domains everywhere and all the time, let it never be forgotten that every inch of ground will be contested; that the struggle with the great destroyer is war; that he wages war, cruel, unrelenting, more deadly than any savage war of extermination. No nation has yet kept this destroyer in its midst and survived. America is not different from the nations of history. The records of 3,000 years leave no room for doubt. One or the other must perish. Between America and the great destroyer it is war to the death.

THE LAWS OF WAR.

No great war has ever been won without following the laws of war. In applying the organic treatment, especially in the domain of the State, the struggle, to be effective, must be conducted according to those fundamental laws that give victory.

THE LAW OF PREPARATION.

The first law is adequate preparation based on that principle in the universe by which effect is always proportional to cause. The foundation for war strength is men. The rank and file of the army must be recruited. To get the population to enlist, the work of education must be widespread; education as to the dangers before the Nation, as to the fact that a great war is on. If men are reached by the truth, they will enlist for their country; if not enlisted they are sure to enlist with the great destroyer. Each recruit is equivalent to two soldiers in the final struggle, one added to our ranks and one taken from the ranks of the enemy.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL IS THE REAL RECRUITING GROUND.

Both sides are recruiting among our masses. The ultimate issue will hinge largely upon the recruiting contest. The recruiting should begin in the public schools. Not a class or grade should be allowed to pass without educational instruction in the facts of alcohol.

Next to recruits in importance comes the officers. Every great effective army must have a system for developing its leaders.

THE COLLEGE IS THE SCHOOL FOR OFFICERS.

Though less than 2 per cent of the men of America go through college, yet from this 2 per cent the Nation draws 7,700 out of the 10,000 leaders in all the walks of life. To the colleges we must look for our leaders. Not a single class in any college should be allowed to graduate without having had presented to its members in scientific form the great truths underlying this war. One of the weakest elements of our struggle has been the lack of leadership, the lack of a system for developing leadership. The destroyer to-day has a strong hold upon our colleges, particularly in the large universities. This grip must be broken at any cost.

Next in importance to preparation comes the question of resources from which to draw the "sinews of war." As yet the work of developing resources on our side can not be considered as even begun. The enemy by a voluntary stamp system has perfected an almost unlimited source of supply, a tax upon his \$2,000,000,000 business. It is vain to hope to win full and enduring victory in the face of the enemy's resources until our own resources have been systematically developed. In a war upon which the Nation's prosperity, its institutions, its very life hinges, we ought in reality to be able to tap the whole vast resources of the Nation. A national finance committee must be organized and begin operations with a definite program to create a new net income of \$100,000 each year. In 10 years the great war should have available a net minimum income for national purposes of a million dollars a year; and each decade thereafter should add an additional net income of a million dollars a year. With adequate resources in all departments of the war operations could be conducted systematically, and we could complete those great preparations necessary for the gigantic war we have on hand.

ORGANIZATION IS THE WATCHWORD.

After resources are developed, after the army has been recruited and officered, the next great step is organization. The army must be organized and drilled until it can be wielded like a great engine of war, like the great standing armies of the world. In every State, in every county, in every township, in every precinct, the individuals must be gathered under local leaders into squads; squads must be assembled under higher leaders into companies, companies into regiments, regiments into brigades, brigades into divisions, divisions into army corps, until upon the word of command we can set in motion 10,000,000 patriotic men, the flower of the land.

STRIKE WITH OUR WHOLE POWER.

When the preparations are completed and war operations begin, we must observe the laws of strategy and, above all, the first law of strategy—concentration. Whenever a decisive battle is to be fought, like the approaching battle in Maine, we should bring to bear our whole power. The liquor forces of the United States, of Canada, of the world will be gathered there to assault the citadel of real constitutional prohibition. Shall we leave our local State forces alone, as we did in the recent constitutional fight in Alabama and Florida? When the British occupied Boston, suppose the other colonies had left Massachusetts alone to meet the British Empire. Suppose at Yorktown only Virginians had been in the field. Under such a conduct of war no victory could have been possible. We must assemble all the prohibition and temperance forces of America, develop a strong national organization, and be able to strike with our whole combined power on every decisive battlefield.

STRIKE WHERE THE ENEMY IS WEAKEST.

The second law of strategy is to strike where the enemy is weakest and strike him in detail. The enemy is weakest where the people are the least degenerate—that is, in the country, in towns and smaller cities.

USE THE PRINCIPLE OF THE WEDGE.

When attacking a stronghold the principle of the wedge must be adopted. Enter the point of the wedge by ward local option; win additional wards, concentrating the attack at each fight; and when the majority has been won strike

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for the city. In the case of great cities win the rural districts until the majority of the State is sure, then strike for the whole State. For our very great cities, the enemy's citadels, that swing their States, we must put the wedge into the rural States, win State after State, till, sure of a majority, we strike for the Nation and split the log open.

THE SPIRIT OF THE MEN.

Though no great war has ever been won without following the laws of preparation and strategy, neither has any long, hard war ever been won without deep incentive to maintain the spirit of the men. Up till now, before science spoke, by false education and through lack of knowledge on the part of the people at large, the enemy has been able to invoke higher principles, particularly when our leaders blundered in the issue and laid themselves open to the charge of seeking to have the State overstep the dominion of the individual and encroach upon the home.

But by wisely laying the battleground now, with the full facts about alcohol determined, we can by diligent work of education take away from the enemy all incentive but that of greed and gain and can show him forth in his true light, a mighty, ravaging horde, more terrible to-day than all the hordes of Huns, Saracens, Tartars, Ottomans—than all the hordes of history. On the other hand, we should take to the men of our ranks a full realization that we fight for home and fireside, for liberty, for country, for God.

The enemy by ruse attempts to shake the spirits of our forces by saying "Prohibition does not prohibit." Let us not only show up how it does already prohibit to a marked degree, but let us realize that getting prohibition is but part of our war. The second part is its enforcement. Let us turn the whole power of our organization throughout prohibition territory into such complete enforcement that all the world must see. Shrewd word is also passed along our ranks, especially to the worrying, that "Prohibition can not prohibit." Let us fling this back in the teeth of the enemy. It is nothing less than a boast that the Nation is already lost. Let us put it before our ranks as the cry of pirates who have boarded the ship of state and with jeers are trying to hoist the black flag, with its skull and crossbones, above the Stars and Stripes.

We can and should stir in our ranks the greatest depths of the human heart depths from which men are transformed, under whose impulses mortals are capable of accomplishing what seems the impossible.

Indeed, we can and should one and all have that deep abiding realization that sustains even in dark hours of temporary defeat, the realization that we are working with the great forces of nature, that the stars in their courses are fighting for us, that it is written in the book of fate that this great destroyer shall be destroyed.

We can all go forward in the great war with a song in our hearts, each to do his full duty, whether as an officer or as a private in the ranks, knowing that whatever betide, whether the heavens fall or the earth melt away, whether we see the victory or die in the conflict, that "the Lord of Hosts is with us," that "the God of Jacob is our refuge."

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